

Message Text

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ACTION MBFR-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 OIC-04 AEC-11 AECE-00

ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 USIA-12

SAJ-01 H-02 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 /155 W

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P R 051757 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8701

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIOTIY 388

USMISSION GENEVA

RUFTRRAXUSNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

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S E C R E T VIENNA 3685

GENEVA FOR DISTO

FROM US REP MBFR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: MBFR: PRESENT STATUS IN VIENNA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ON MAY 4 SOVIET REPS ACCEPTED ALL ALLIED DESIRES ON UNRESOLVED FORMULATION AND PROCEDURAL ISSUES AND PROPOSED PLENARY MEETING IN VIENNA TALKS FOR MAY 10, BUT INSISTED ON MENTION IN WRITTEN RECORD OF FIRST PLENARY SESSION THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE ISSUE OF INVITING OBSERVERS TO FALL NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT EXCLUDED BY ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES AND PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENT. ALL MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED SOVIET PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTABLE

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WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE UK REP (THOMPSON) WHO ONCE AGAIN OPPOSED. WE BELIEVE THAT COMPLETE UK ISOLATION AND THE NATURE OF THE OVERALL SITUATION ARE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR SO THAT THEY CAN BE LEFT TO HAVE THEIR OWN EFFECT AND THAT NO US INTERVENTION IS DESIRABLE FOR THE MOMENT. THE PICTURE MAY CHANGE IF THE UK DOES NOT SHIFT ITS POSITION BY MAY 8. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN VIENNA MAY BE HELPFUL TO ADDRESSES: AS REPORTED SEPTELS, ON MAY 4, THE UK REP TOLD THE AD HOC GROUP THAT HE HAD REPORTED TO LONDON VIEWS OF ALL OTHER MEMBERS OF AD HOC GROUP THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD ACCEPT SOVIET APRIL 30 PROPOSAL OF AGREEING TO CARRY OVER OF AGREED PROCEDURES TO NEGOTIATIONS IF RECORD COULD ALSO CONTAIN LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT ADOPTION OF PROCEDURES " DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF RAISING THE QUESTION OF INVITING OTHER EUROPEAN STATES TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS OBSERVERS." UK REP SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED CONFIRMATORY INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WOULD NOT PERMIT HIM TO ACCEPT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR SOVIET MENTION OF OBSERVERS IN THE WRITTEN RECORD OF THE PROCESSES AND PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENT. UK REP TOLD THE AD HOC GROUP HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT AN ORAL STATEMENT BY THE SOVIETS ABOUT THE OBSERVERS MADE IN THE SMALLER, QUADRILATERAL NETHERLANDS- US- SOVIET- HUNGARIAN GROUP EVEN THOUGH THIS WOULD MEAN THAT THE PLANNED EXCHANGE OF STATEMENTS ON CARRY OVER OF THE AGREED PROCEDURES TO THE FORTHCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE IN THE SAME CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED IN THE INTEREST OF ALLIED SOLIDARITY THAT THIS APPROACH SHOULD BE TRIED WITH THE EAST IN THE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE AFTER NOON OF THE SAME DAY, MAY 4. IN THAT SESSION WITH THE SOVIET AND HUNGARIAN REPS, NETHERLANDS AND US REPS MADE VIGOROUS EFFORTS TO GAIN SOVIET AGREEMENT TO THIS CONCEPT. THE SOVIETS AGREED TO ALL OTHER ALLIED SUGGESTIONS AS TO WORDING AND FORMULATION AND PROPOSED A PLENARY SESSION HELD MAY 10, BUT INSISTED THAT THE OBSERVER ITEM WOULD HAVE TO

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RECORDED IN WRITING.

4. A MEETING OF THE AD HOC GROUP ON MAY 5 SHOWED THAT ALL MEMBERS EXCEPT UK BELIEVED THE SOVIETS PROPOSAL FOR A MAY 10 PLENARY SHOULD BE ACCEPTED NOW AND WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT INCLUSION OF THE OBSERVER ITEM IN WRITTEN RECORD. THE UK WAS COMPLETELY ISOLATED

AS HOLDING OUT ON A MINOR POINT OF LIMITED SIGNIFICANCE
IN THE FACE OF SOVIET PREPAREDNESS TO MOVE TO PLENARIES.

5. UK REP THOMSON WAS TO SEE SOVIET REP KHLESTOV
ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 5 AND WILL LEAVE FOR LONDON MAY 6
TO CONFER ON MAY 7 WITH UK OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER
OF STATE AMORY, WHO HAS TAKEN HIGHLY CONSERVATION
POSITION ON MBFR AND HUNGARIAN ISSUE FROM OUTSET. WE
BELIEVE THE PRESENT SITUATION IS SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR
AND SPECIFIC AND THE POSITION OF ALL ALLIES SUFFICIENTLY
KNOWN SO THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD HAVE THEIR
OWN EFFECT ON THE UK POSITION. IF, HOWEVER, UK AUTHORITIES
HAVE NOT MOVED BY MAY 8, SOME US INTERVENTION MAY BE
ADVISABLE ON THE LINES THAT THE UK APPARENTLY MAKING
A STAND OF PRINCIPLE ON AN ISSUE OF VERY LIMITED IM-
PORTANCE, RISKING WESTERN PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE
ALLIES FOR TAKING AN UNREALISTIC POSITION, AND PLACING
IN QUESTION HOLDING OF PLENARIES AND AS RAPID A CLOSE
OF VIENNA TALKS AS POSSIBLE.
HUMES

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA03685
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730537/aaaahysa.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION MBF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971212
Subject: MBFR: PRESENT STATUS IN VIENNA
TAGS: PARM
To: GENEVA
MBFR
RUFTRRAXUSNMR SHAPE
SALT TALKS
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCEUR
USDOCOSOUTH

USLOSACLANT

WASHDC PRIOTIY 388

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005